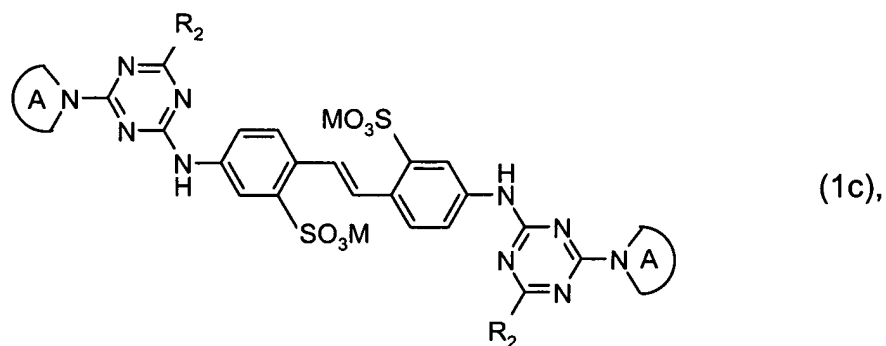
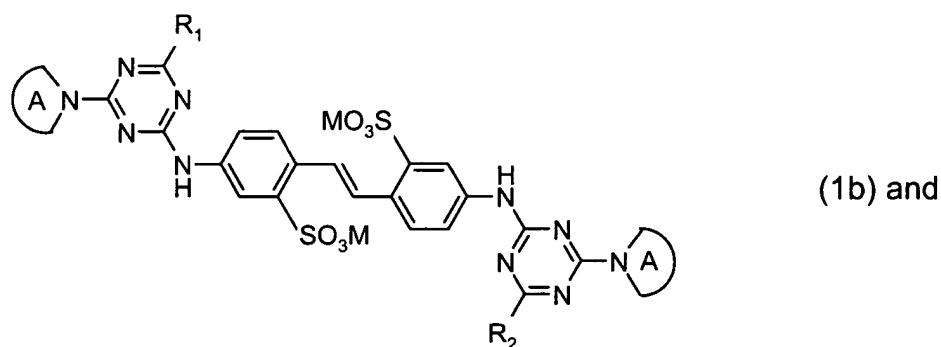
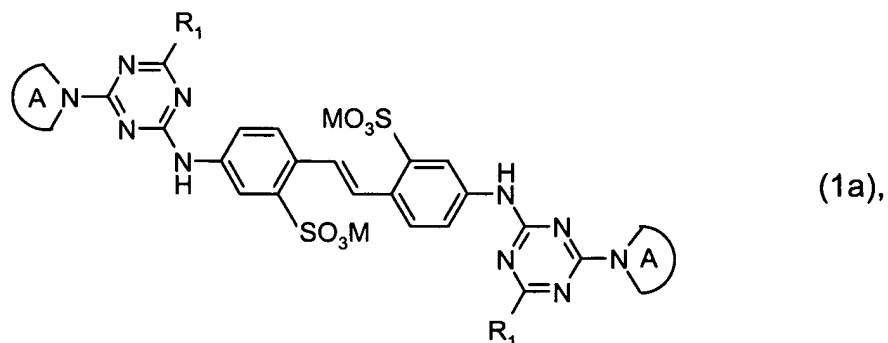


In the Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



in which

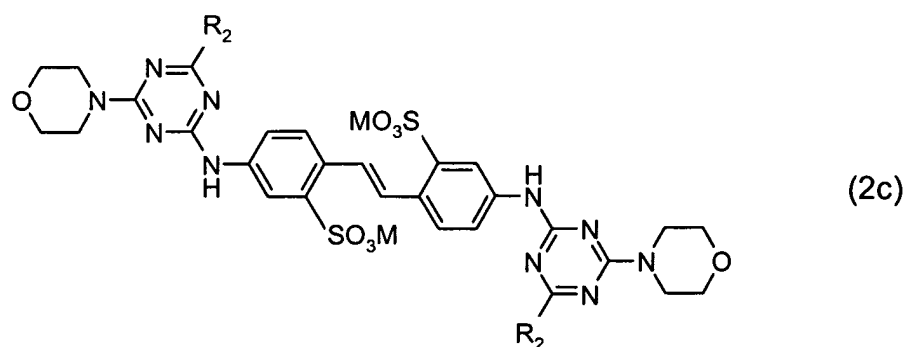
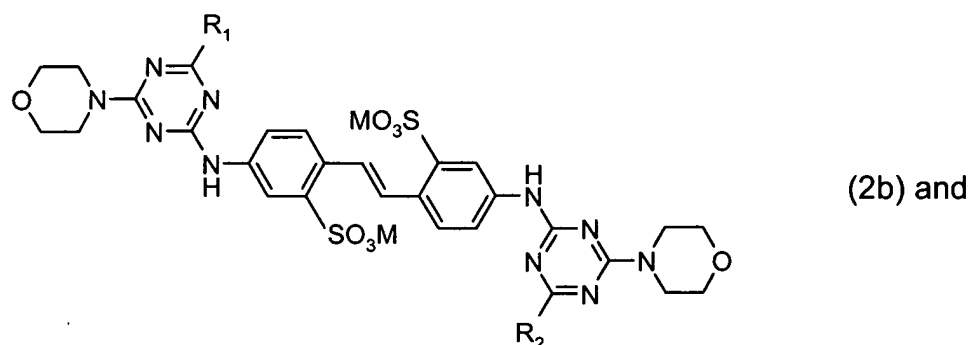
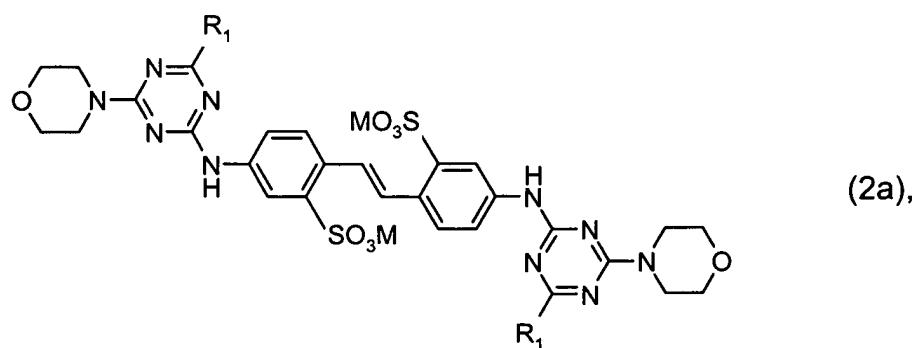
$R_1$  and  $R_2$  are different and ~~each represents~~

$R_1$  is -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, -N(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino residue or an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group,

$R_2$  is an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group.

each of the rings designated as A represent a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocycle, which may contain one further heteroatom and M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine.

2. **(currently amended)** A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim 1, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



[[.]] .

in which

~~R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and M are as defined in claim 1.~~

3. **(currently amended):** A ~~composition~~ fluorescent whitening agent according to claim 1, in which the aliphatic amino acid or amino acid amide residue is of the formula

-NR<sub>3</sub>-CH(CO<sub>2</sub>H)-R<sub>3</sub> (3) or -NR<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CONH<sub>2</sub> (4),

in which each

$R_3$  and  $R_3'$ , independently, represent hydrogen or a group having the formula

$-\text{CHR}_4\text{R}_5$  in which

$R_4$  and  $R_5$ , independently, are hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ alkyl optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, thio, methylthio, amino, carboxy, sulfo, phenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl, 3,5-diiodo-4-hydroxyphenyl,  $\beta$ -indolyl,  $\beta$ -imidazolyl and  $\text{NH}=\text{C}(\text{NH}_2)\text{NH}-$ .

4. **(currently amended)** A ~~composition~~ fluorescent whitening agent according to claim 3, in which residues  $R_1$  and/or  $R_2$  are derived from glycine, alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan ( $\beta$ -indolylalanine), histidine ( $\beta$ -imidazolylalanine),  $\alpha$ -aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine ( $\alpha$ -aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine ( $\alpha$ -aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine ( $\alpha$ -amino- $\beta$ -methylvaleric acid), norleucine ( $\alpha$ -amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine ( $\alpha,\delta$ -diaminovaleric acid), lysine ( $\alpha,\epsilon$ -diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid ( $\alpha$ -aminoglutaric acid), threonine, hydroxyglutamic acid and taurine, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine.

5. **(currently amended)** A ~~composition~~ fluorescent whitening agent according to claim 1, in which  $R_1$  is ~~and  $R_2$  represent~~  $-\text{N}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{NHC}_2\text{-C}_4\text{hydroxyalkyl}$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_4\text{hydroxyalkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl})(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_4\text{hydroxyalkyl})$ , a morpholino residue or a residue derived from glycine, sarcosine, taurine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine.

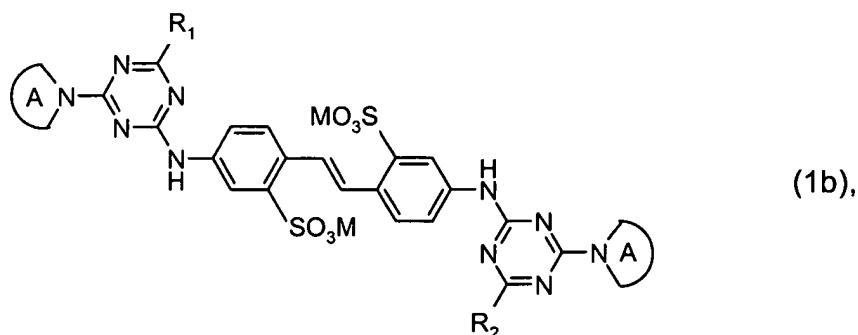
6. **(currently amended)** A ~~composition~~ fluorescent whitening agent according to claim 5 in which  $R_1$  represents a mono-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino, a di-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino, a di-(2-hydroxypropyl)amino, a diethylamino, an N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-methylamino, a morpholino, an N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino or a sarcosine residue and  $R_2$  represents an aspartic acid or a glycine residue.

7. **(currently amended)** A ~~composition~~ fluorescent whitening agent according to claim 1, in which M represents hydrogen, lithium, potassium, sodium, ammonium, mono-, di-, tri- or tetra- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ alkylammonium, mono-, di- or tri- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ hydroxyalkylammonium or ammonium that is di- or tri-substituted with a mixture of  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ alkyl and  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ hydroxyalkyl groups.

8. (currently amended) A ~~composition~~ according to claim 7, in which M represents hydrogen, potassium or sodium.

9. (currently amended) A process for preparing the preparation of the fluorescent whitening agent compound mixture ~~mixture of compounds~~ of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c) according to claim 1 by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, ~~successively, in any desired sequence,~~ with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an appropriate heterocyclic compound, an amino compound R<sub>1</sub>H and an amino compound R<sub>2</sub>H, or, alternatively a mixture of amino compounds R<sub>1</sub>H and R<sub>2</sub>H, ~~R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> being as defined in claim 1.~~

10. (currently amended) A compound of the formula



in which

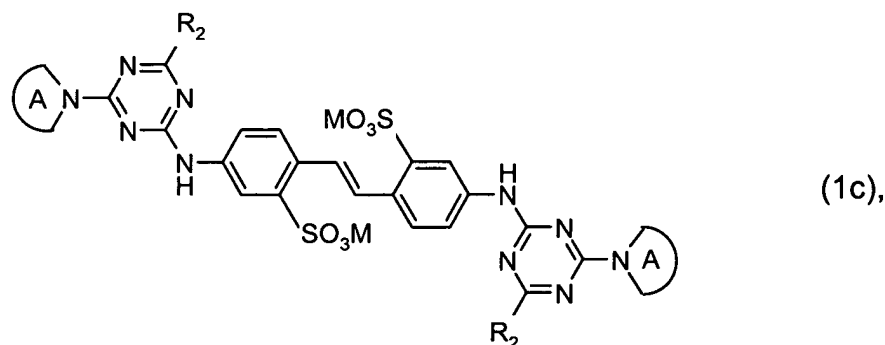
~~R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, A and M are as defined in claim 1.~~ R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are different and

R<sub>1</sub> is -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, -N(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino residue or an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group,

R<sub>2</sub> is an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group,

each of the rings designated as A represent a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocycle, which may contain one further heteroatom and M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine.

11. (currently amended) A compound of formula



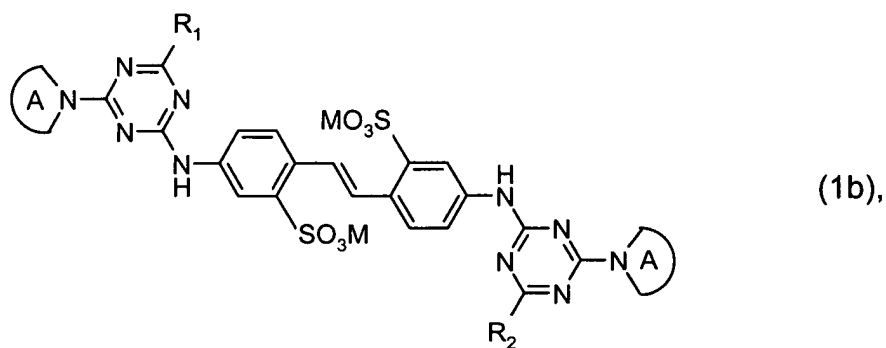
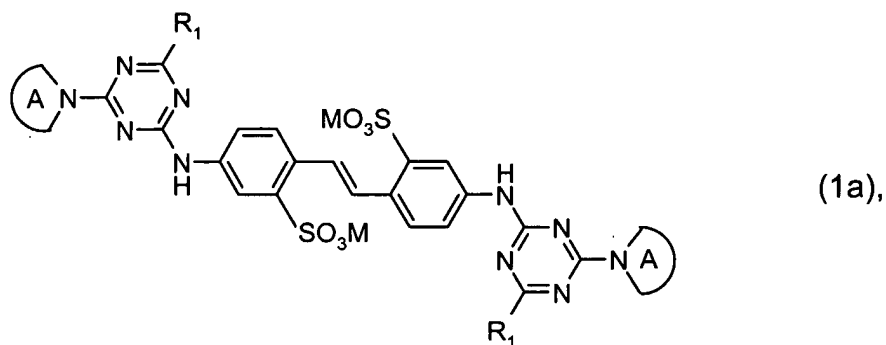
in which

$R_2$  is an amino acid or amino acid derivative from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group, whereby the residue is derived from alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan ( $\beta$ -indolylalanine), histidine ( $\beta$ -imidazolylalanine),  $\alpha$ -aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine ( $\alpha$ -aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine ( $\alpha$ -aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine ( $\alpha$ -amino- $\beta$ -methylvaleric acid), norleucine ( $\alpha$ -amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine ( $\alpha,\delta$ -diaminovaleric acid), lysine ( $\alpha,\epsilon$ -diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid ( $\alpha$ -aminoglutaric acid), threonine or hydroxyglutamic acid, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine or the corresponding propionic acid—, the heterocyclic ring—

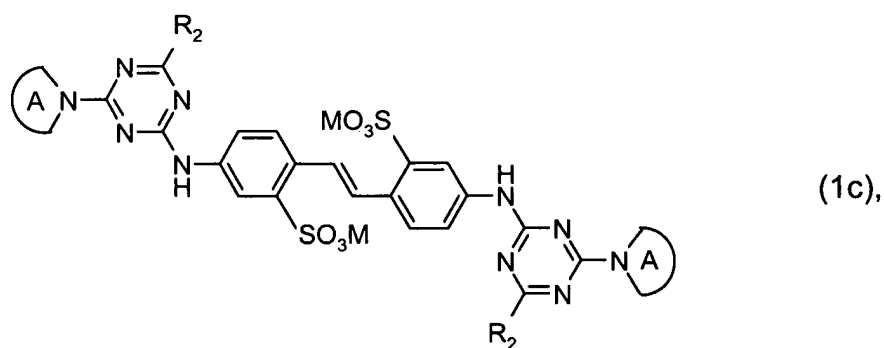
~~A and the symbol M being as defined in claim 1.~~

each of the rings designated as A represent a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocycle, which may contain one further heteroatom and M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine.

12. (currently amended) A method for whitening synthetic or natural organic material by treating the synthetic or natural material with a composition, which contains water, a fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of the compounds (1a), (1b) and (1c), ~~according to claim 1,~~ a compound of formula (1b) or a compound of formula (1c)



or a compound of formula (1c)



in which

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are different and

R<sub>1</sub> is -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, -N(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino residue or an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group,

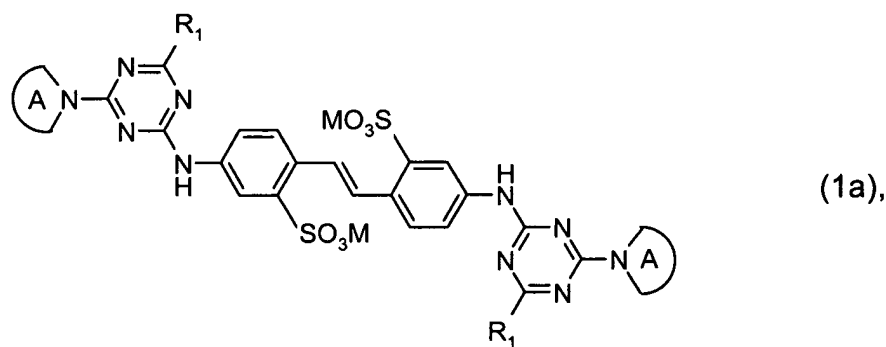
R<sub>2</sub> is an amino acid or amino acid derivative from which a hydrogen atom has been removed

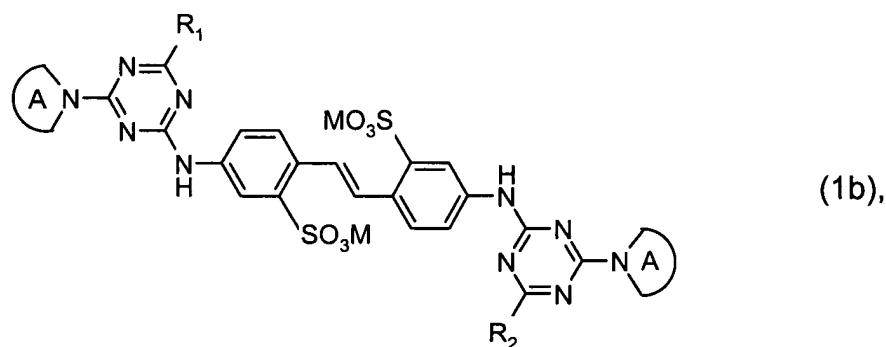
from the amino group, whereby the residue is derived from alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine),

histidine ( $\beta$ -imidazolylalanine),  $\alpha$ -aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine ( $\alpha$ -aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine ( $\alpha$ -aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine ( $\alpha$ -amino- $\beta$ -methylvaleric acid), norleucine ( $\alpha$ -amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine ( $\alpha,\delta$ -diaminovaleric acid), lysine ( $\alpha,\epsilon$ -diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid ( $\alpha$ -aminoglutaric acid), threonine or hydroxyglutamic acid, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine or the corresponding propionic acid, each of the rings designated as A represent a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocycle, which may contain one further heteroatom and M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine and, optionally, auxiliaries.

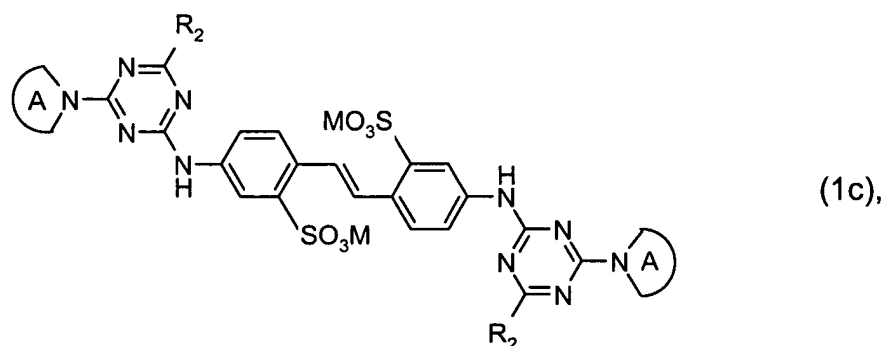
13. **(currently amended)** A method according to claim 12 for whitening of paper comprising applying to the paper substrate in the pulp mass, in the form of a paper coating composition, or directly in the size press or metering press a mixture of compounds (1a), (1b) and (1c), a compound (1b) or a compound (1c) ~~according to claim 12~~.

14. **(currently amended)** Paper, which has been optically brightened by the compound mixture of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c) ~~according to claim 1~~, a compound of formula (1b) or a compound of formula (1c)





or a compound of formula (1c)-



in which

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are different and

R<sub>1</sub> is -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, -N(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino residue or an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group,

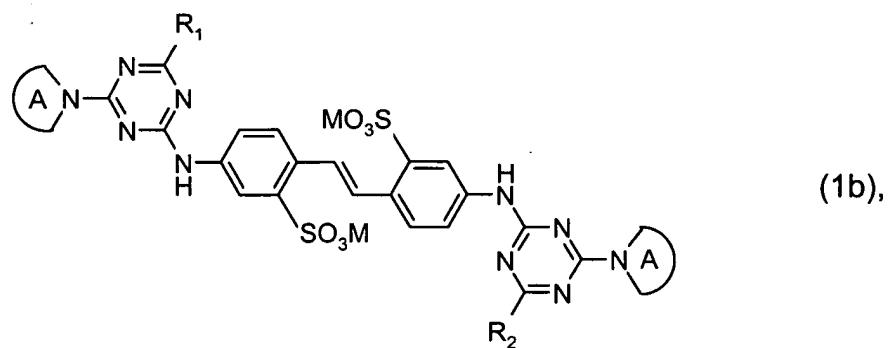
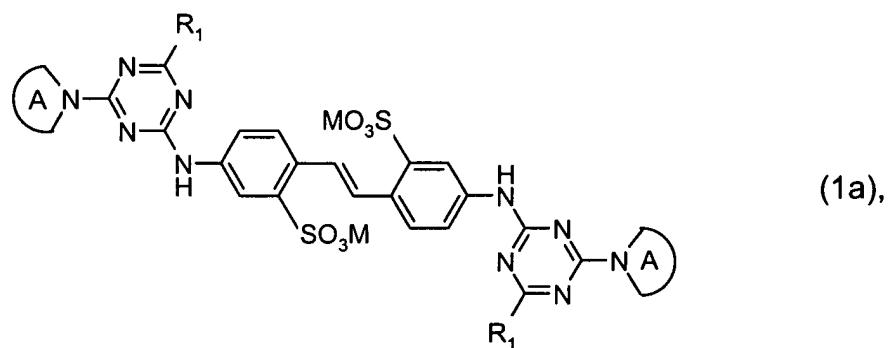
R<sub>2</sub> is an amino acid or amino acid derivative from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group, whereby the residue is derived from alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine (β-imidazolylalanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine or hydroxyglutamic acid, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine or the corresponding propionic acid, ~~the~~ heterocyclic ring.

each of the rings designated as A represent a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocycle, which may contain one further heteroatom and M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine.

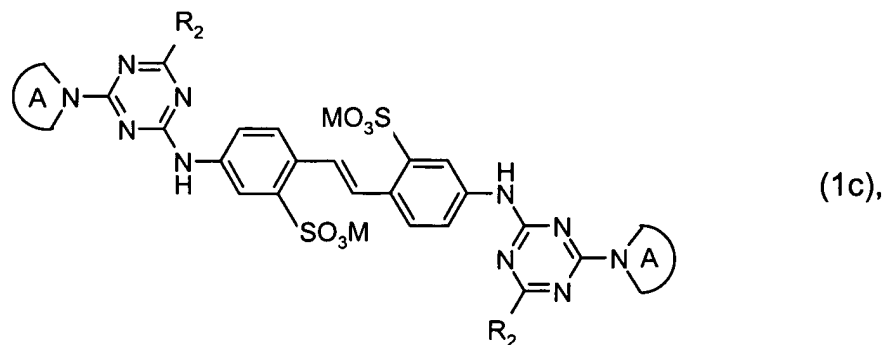


15. **(previously presented)** A method according to claim 12, for increasing the Sun Protection Factor (SPF) rating or for the fluorescent whitening of a textile fibre materials.

16. **(currently amended)** A textile fabric produced from a fibre treated with the compound mixture of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c) ~~according to claim 1~~, a compound of formula (1b) or a compound of formula (1c)



~~or a compound of formula (1c)~~



in which R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are different and

R<sub>1</sub> is -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, -N(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino residue or an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group.

R<sub>2</sub> is an amino acid or amino acid derivative from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group, whereby the residue is derived from alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine (β-imidazolylalanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine or hydroxyglutamic acid, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine or the corresponding propionic acid, ~~the~~ heterocyclic ring.

each of the rings designated as A represent a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocycle, which may contain one further heteroatom and M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine.